

My remarks concern a gentleman who has accomplished the transition from youth into senior maturity in a manner that is gracious in relationship with his friends and associates, and I am quite certain, grateful and humble in relationship with his maker.

Cousin Willie Clark of Edgecombe County is 82 years old today and his enjoyment of life at this age doesn't stem merely from arriving at these respectable years, but in knowing how to be old when he arrived. He is a man of cheerful and colorful yesteryears and yesterdays and of confident tomorrows.

If old age is correctly labelled the winter season of life, then a visit with this gentleman may be compared to a visit on the sunny side of the barn on a winter afternoon.

For twenty consecutive years he was the Senator from Edgecombe County, and during those Sessions his particular interests, other than the general affairs of the State, were agriculture and mental institutions. He served as chairman of both these committees, and his contributions in both fields are a matter of record.

I think that he would have been particularly happy could he have been here when the efforts of the Honorable John Umstead were recognized in this Chamber last week, for he and Mr. Umstead have been co-workers for the unfortunate for many years, not only in matters of legislation but in personal contributions of gifts to the mental institutions to brighten the lives of those who live in shadows.

Those of us who knew him as a Senator, remember him as the finest combination of a statesman and practical politician (when necessary) and when he took a position he stayed hitched.

Since retiring from the active conduct of his business he has become the senior consultant to the community—a status I think he enjoys—and I know the community appreciates. Although his health has limited his physical activities, he maintains a keen interest in affairs of business, politics and bridge (the latter being a substitute for a well known five card game). He has a store of stories that can match Cousin Wayland Spruill's, and enjoys visitors.

His philosophy about age seems to be that it ain't the getting old that's bad, but it's getting used to not being young anymore that bothers.

He has solved this problem and continues to enjoy the people that he served so well and so long.

I make these remarks so that those of you who know him might have a report as to his physical condition. He remains a man of good works.

And I move, Mr. President, that when the Senate adjourns today that it adjourn in honor of and with best wishes to former Senator W. G. Clark for many more happy birthdays.

ENROLLED BILLS

Senator Lackey, for the Committee on Enrolled Bills, reports the following bills and resolutions properly enrolled, and they are duly ratified and sent to the office of the Secretary of State:

H. R. 680, a joint resolution of respect to the memory of the Honorable John J. Parker.

S. B. 60, an act to authorize the board of county commissioners of Halifax County to levy a tax upon the property in Scotland Neck, Palmyra, Roseneath and Conoconara Townships in Halifax County for the operation, maintenance and equipping of "Our Community Hospital, Incorporated," a non-profit, charitable organization.